

DSHS
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payments (SSP)

Project Update # 3
May 15, 2002

State Supplementary Payment Plan Sent to Federal Government:

Secretary Braddock sent Washington State's proposed SSP plan into the Federal Government on April 30. While the state has not yet heard a formal response from the Social Security Administration, DDD has been informed that there have been meetings held by SSA to review the plan. DSHS continues to offer prompt assistance to SSA to develop an SSP program agreement with the federal government by our state's proposed July 1, 2002 implementation date.

State Supplementary Payment Program Parameters:

DDD Headquarters personnel are currently working to identify the state program dollars, the SSP program eligibility criteria and the methodology and assessment tool for determining the amount of SSP payment to individuals and families.

Proposed SSP eligibility criteria: DDD has proposed that a selected portion of current DDD clients, with incomes at or below 150% the state median wage as adjusted for family size, will be eligible to apply for SSP. DDD will notify these individuals of the eligibility opportunity as soon as DSHS has reached an agreement with SSA on the SSP plan.

Proposed SSP recipient population: DDD continues to assume that along with selected others; a large percentage of recipients of Family Support will be included in the new SSP recipient population. While DDD is no longer directed to remove families from the CAP waiver in order to implement the SSP program, it is still *possible* that the anticipated federal audit report may require DSHS to remove some current waiver participants from the waiver. Until the state has read and responded to the CMS audit, it will be unknown how many, if any individuals will be removed from the waiver.

Information and Communication about SSP:

DDD is developing a website dedicated to providing updates on State Supplementary Payment information. As soon as the link had been developed, it will be posted on the DDD website. DDD staff continues to attend meetings with DSHS, OFM and legislative staff, as well as individuals, families, providers and county and field services staff to provide updates on progress to date on SSP. DDD will be working to develop methods to provide the support necessary for families and individuals to successfully use State Supplementary Payments.

Other News:

- Possible WAC Revision: DDD is looking into the need for filing WAC's pertaining to SSP
- Issuing SSP payments: DDD is working within DSHS to develop a mechanism to issue cash payments to SSP recipients. The target date for issuing the first cash payment is July 1, 2002, but the state is allowed until October 1, 2002 to issue the first payment.

SSP Project Staff Update:

Steve Brink, who ably assisted the Division of Developmental Disabilities in writing the SSP plan to the federal government, returned to retirement on Friday, May 3, 2002. We are very grateful for his knowledgeable assistance in writing the plan to the federal government and the extensive research he conducted in order to answer the many questions posed by constituents.

Jane Boone, who continues to work at DDD while on loan from Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, can continue to be reached at DDD:

Email: boonejw@dshs.wa.gov

Telephone number (360) 902-8446.